

## Message Text

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64

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TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION ADJOURNS AS

INDEPENDENCE TALK GROWS

REF: (A) BELFAST 237 (B) BELFAST A-1

1. NORTHERN IRELAND CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION COMPLETED DEBATE ON AGREED SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC MOTION (REF A) JULY 3 AND ADJOURNED UNTIL AUGUST 19. DEBATES MARKED BY AVOIDANCE CONTENTIOUS ISSUES AND GENERAL GOOD HUMOR AND TOLERANCE. PARTIES EXPECTED CONTINUE PRIVATE MEETINGS DURING RECESS TO DISCUSS REAL AND TOUGH ISSUES THAT WILL ARISE IN AUTUMN. THERE STILL SEEMS NO WAY TO RECONCILE UNYIELDING MANIFESTOS OF PROTESTANT UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC) AND CATHOLIC SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP). LATTER DEMANDS PARTICIPATION AT TOP LEVEL IN ANY DEVOLVED GOVERNMENT AND FORMER HAS RULED OUT CABINET-LEVEL POWER SHARING WITH "THOSE WHOSE FIRST LOYALTY" IS TO OTHER THAN UNITED KINGDOM.

2. THERE SIGNS THAT BOTH SIDES THINKING UNTHINKABLE AND THAT IS IN DIRECTION NEGOTIATED INDEPENDENCE FOR ULSTER  
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OUTSIDE U.K. AND SEPARATE FROM REPUBLIC IRELAND. INITIAL

DEBATES CONSISTENTLY ATTACKED WESTMINSTER DIRECT RULE, GENERAL LACK UNDERSTANDING "ACROSS THE WATER" OF SITUATION ULSTER AND STRESSED NECESSITY FIND ULSTER IDENTITY. LATEST SIGN OF EVOLUTION IS RUMOR MAKING ROUNDS OF PUBS AND TEAROOMS THAT IAN PAISLEY "WILL NOT EVEN SPEAK ON TWELFTH DAY FOR FEAR OF OFFENDING GERRY FITT."

3. IRISH TIMES NORTHERN EDITOR CONOR O' CLERY DEVOTED WEEKLY NORTHERN NOTEBOOK COLUMN JULY 5 TO TOPIC OF NEGOTIATED INDEPENDENCE FOR ULSTER AND EXTENT IT BEING DISCUSSED BY POLITICAL LEADERS. O' CLERY IS INTELLIGENT, HARD-WORKING AND ENJOYS ACCESS TO ALL ULSTER POLITICIANS. HE BELIEVES PADDY DEVLIN, IVAN COOPER AND PADDY DUFFY OF SDLP NOW SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING IDEA THAT PREVIOUSLY ANATHEMA AND STILL RESISTED BY SDLP LEADERS FITT AND JOHN HUME. O' CLERY LISTS LOYALIST CONVENTION MEMBERS JOHN TAYLOR, ERNEST BAIRD, DAVID TRIMBLE, GLENN BARR AND WILLIAM THOMPSON AS MOST ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT INDEPENDENCE ON THAT SIDE. IT NOTEWORTHY THAT IN PARTS BELFAST, APPARENTLY FOR FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, ULSTER FLAG PREDOMINATES OVER UNION JACK AS TWELFTH JULY APPROACHES.

4. O PART O' CLERY REPORT VERIFIED BY INCIDENT AT CONGEN INDEPENDENCE DAY RECEPTION WHEN INITIAL MEETING PADDY DEVLIN AND ENOCH POWELL ENDED WITH ANGRY DEVLIN CALLING POWELL "CARPETBAGGER" AND TELLING HIM TO LEAVE ULSTER. DEVLIN EXPLAINED LATER THAT POWELL "A DANGEROUS MAN" IN ULSTER "WHILE EVERYBODY ELSE THINKING OF A UNITED ULSTER, THIS INDIVIDUAL IS TALKING ABOUT A UNITED KINGDOM." POWELL IN SUBSEQUENT JULY 5 SPEECH IN SOUTH DOWN CONSTITUENCY STATED FIRST LOYALTY MUST BE TO WESTMINSTER GOVERNMENT WHILE PRACTICALLY SIMULTANEOUSLY JOHN TAYLOR IN SPEECH TO AN ORANGE ORDER IN SCOTLAND WAS EMPHASIZING FIRST LOYALTY WAS NOT TO PARLIAMENT BUT TO QUEEN "AS LONG AS SHE WAS PROTESTANT". IAN PAISLEY AND HARRY WEST LATER REFUTED POWELL CONCEPT OF LOYALTY.

5. SPECULATION ABOUT INDEPENDENCE FOR ULSTER CENTERS ABOUT PRECONDITION THAT CONVENTION WILL EVENTUALLY FAIL IN THAT LOYALISTS WILL FORCE THROUGH REPORT DENYING MINORITY SHARE IN GOVERNMENT AT TOP AND PARLIAMENT WILL THEN REJECT  
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REPORT. THEN PROVISIONALS WILL RESUME HOSTILITIES AND NORTHERN IRELAND WILL GO BACK TO SQUARE ONE OR LATE 1974. PROJECTION CONTINUES THAT TROUBLED BRITAIN WILL THEN GIVE TIME AND CONDITION ULTIMATUM FOR FINAL PULLOUT AT WHICH TIME ULSTER COMMUNITIES WILL COME TOGETHER TO SURVIVE. IT DOES NOT NEED TO BE THAT WAY. IF MINORITY COMMUNITY COULD BE SURE OF FULL ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN AN INDEPENDENT ULSTER THEN DESPITE TERMS OF REFERENCE

CONVENTION COULD SERIOUSLY DISCUSS NEGOTIATED INDEPENDENCE.  
IT IS TEMPTING CONCEPT IN THAT IT COULD MOST NEARLY SATISFY  
EVERYBODY PERHAPS EVEN INCLUDING PROVISIONAL IRA. THAT  
ORGANIZATION CAUSED WARNING TO BE ISSUED THIS PAST WEEKEND  
THAT UNLESS BRITISH SOON GAVE INDICATION OF INTENT  
WITHDRAW, PROVISIONALS WOULD RESUME HOSTILITIES.

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